

For Immediate Release  
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**Office of Budget and Program Planning submits administration recommendations  
for reductions in spending to Legislative Fiscal Division**

(Helena) – The Office of Budget and Program Planning today submitted to the Legislative Fiscal Division recommendations for reductions in spending that have been approved by Governor Judy Martz. This plan will be considered by the legislature when it convenes in special session August 5.

The recommendations include a combination of reductions in spending, funding switches and fund transfers totaling \$45 million.

“The Office of Budget and Program Planning has done a good job in determining what reductions in spending will have the least possible impact on services for Montana’s citizens,” said Governor Judy Martz. “It is important to note that these recommendations are reductions in increases approved in the 2001 legislature and none of these reductions affect the base budget of any agency.”

No further program reductions were made in human services or corrections. The entitlements for education were not reduced by the reductions proposed by the budget office.

“I appreciate the work and efforts of all state employees to find creative solutions to our current budget challenges,” said Governor Martz. “These are difficult decisions that affect people’s lives, and our administration intends to work with the legislature to ensure that they are in session the shortest possible amount of time.”

The reductions in spending were prepared for the legislative committees that will be meeting prior to the August Special Session. These committees, including House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Claims and both tax committees will review the governor’s recommendations, and provide input and feedback prior to the session.

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“Our office has developed recommendations with the goal of maintaining the current level of services wherever possible,” said Chuck Swysgood. “These are recommendations based on information gathered since the special session was called. Due to that time constraint, it is possible that there may be some changes to these recommendations as new information becomes available.”

Attached is the list of the recommended reductions in spending.

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